

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 and 6-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 5 is cancelled. Claims 1-4 presently stand rejected. Claims 6-16 have been added to further define the present invention as discussed in detail below.

**Priority Claim:**

The Examiner has not acknowledged Applicants' claim to foreign priority, and has not indicated receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document. A review of the USPTO Pair Website indicates that the Office did receive the certified copy of the Priority Document that was filed on December 8, 2003. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to formally acknowledge receipt of the claim to priority in the next Office action.

**Drawings:**

The Examiner has not indicated acceptance of the replacement drawings filed June 16, 2004. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to indicate whether the drawings are acceptable.

**IDS:**

The Examiner has returned the initialed Form PTO/SB/08 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on May 13, 2005. However, the Examiner has not returned the initialed Form PTO/SB/08 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on December 8, 2003. A review of the USPTO Pair Website indicates that the Office did receive the Information Disclosure Statement as filed on December 8, 2003.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 filed December 8, 2003, in the next Office action.

**Restriction:**

Applicants elected Group I, claims 1-4 for prosecution in response to the Examiner's telephone Restriction Requirement. Applicants affirm the election of claims 1-4.

**Claims:**

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (6,740,966).

**Analysis of the Prior Art Rejection**

Of the rejected claims, only claim 1 is in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

Claim 1 is directed to a tape carrier for TAB that includes a carrying support film, and individual pieces of flexible wiring boards mounted at regular intervals on the carrying support film.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nakamura fails to disclose "individual pieces" of flexible wiring boards that are mounted on a carrying support film.

Nakamura teaches plural devices (plurality of device regions 11) on a monolithic insulating tape 2. Since these device regions are not separate articles unless they are cut out from the tape carrier 1, these device regions are not "individual pieces" as the invention defines. In other words, the tape carrier disclosed in Nakamura has a different carrier structure, carrying different wiring board structures.

In order to clarify the structure of the individual pieces, Applicants amend claim 1. In particular, each of the individual pieces of wiring boards includes an electrically insulating base layer made of a resin film and an electric conductor layer made of a metal foil having a predetermined wiring circuit pattern. These individual pieces of flexible wiring boards are mounted at regular intervals on the carrying support film.

In contrast, Nakamura discloses a belt-like insulating tape (alleged carrying support film) 2, with device regions 11 mounted on the tape 2. It is noted that reference numeral 1 refers to the tape carrier device in general, and not specifically to the tape 2. Also, it is noted that reference numeral 10 refers to the cut-out line for each device region 11, in order for it to be used as an independent semiconductor device (col. 7, lines 5-10). For example, a device region 11 is cut out to make an independent semiconductor device 20 that is subsequently applied to a liquid crystal display device (col. 7, lines 50-54). The device regions are not made into independent semiconductor devices until after they are cut out along line 10.

The device regions 11 include a wire pattern 5, electrode terminals 6, IC chip 4, resin 12 and solder resist 13, which are all formed on the tape 2 (col. 7, lines 11-15).

The device regions 11 do not include an insulating base layer made of a resin film. The resin 12 is for sealing the wire pattern 5 with the IC chip 4 (col. 7, lines 16-17). The only insulating base layer is that of the belt-like insulating tape 2 of the tape carrier 1.

Only after the device region 11 is cut, is the tape 2 separated from the other tape portions, and thus, the individual pieces of flexible wiring boards are not separate articles until they are cut.

In other words, the Nakamura does not disclose a carrying support film having individual pieces of flexible wiring boards on it, wherein the individual pieces of flexible wiring boards include, *inter alia*, an insulating base layer made of resin film.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is not anticipated by Nakamura.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

In addition, in order to further clarify the structural features of the present invention, Applicants add dependent claims reciting specific structure of the carrying support film (claims 6-8). These claims are fully supported by the originally filed application (see Figs. 3A-3C, and page 18, for example). Nakamura's support film 2 does not have opening portions in the carrier 1 before the devices 11 are cut out therefrom.

Further, Applicants add dependent claims reciting the numerical ranges defined in the support film and individual piece of the wiring boards (claims 9-16). These claims are fully supported by the originally filed application (see pages 10-17, for example). These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

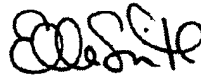
### **Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 10/728,911

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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